

# EDITORIALS

## For the Annexation

The proposal to annex some 6600 acres to Torrance has created considerable controversy. Certainly, in considering a project of this magnitude, it is only natural there is some misunderstanding, some thoughtless bitterness and a great deal of concern.

The City Council has acted wisely in encouraging community-wide opinion on the subject. When final action is taken, whether for or against, no element in the community can accuse the city officials of denying anyone the right to be heard.

There is much misunderstanding of the project in the Rolling Hills and Palos Verdes area. There, in the minds of many, Torrance is pictured as a giant octopus reaching out in all directions with one tentacle aimed at Marineland. Quite the contrary is fact. The two corporations controlling the territory made the initial approach. Of course the corporations are represented by astute businessmen and seek advantages to be attained by becoming part of this remarkable city. At the same time, the people of this community can feel flattered that developers of this character want to become part of Torrance.

Justifiably, Superintendent Hull and the school board are concerned over the new burdens to be placed on the district by the additional territory. They have made an eloquent case against the annexation proposal and, because of the esteem in which our school administrators are held, their opinions are respected.

On the other hand, many industrialists within Torrance openly and privately favor the annexation. This, too, is important in the city's deliberations for industry pays the major part of the tax bill that creates the favorable tax base and prompts wise property owners to become part of Torrance.

Tax committees representing industry and the Chamber of Commerce have recommended acceptance of the new territory with two important reservations; they ask that at least two school sites of ten acres each be set aside and dedicated to the school district without cost; they suggest that the city demand that the developers adhere to minimum housing schedules set forth in their brochure.

It is our opinion that these demands are reasonable and will be met because of the high character of the two corporations concerned in the development. There is no doubt that in early stages, the new territory can conceivably be costly to Torrance. Long-term possibilities can overcome this one short-term disadvantage, however, and this is one occasion when some community foresight can assure the future greatness of Torrance.

Torrance can no longer think in terms of a few years. Our sights must be raised to the period ten to 20 years hence when the entire area may be built up solidly. It is clear now that Torrance has few, if any, prospects of acquiring better type residential sections within its present limits and to give up any more industrial land would be folly and ultimately disastrous.

No business or industry ever was able to grow and expand without assuming some risks. Many of the most successful corporations in the United States passed through expansion periods when their futures were jeopardized by lack of income. Here is a case in parallel.

The possibilities of assuring a bright future for Torrance in this annexation proposal are so great, in our opinion, that they far exceed any of the immediate disadvantages. We favor just exactly the kind of caution that is being exercised by those in authority or vested with leadership within the community.

The great risk is not in the risk of having the new territory costly for a short period of time. Rather, it is the risk Torrance may be taking in passing up this one great opportunity for the future.

## Parkway Eyesore

Torrance Blvd. is one of the city's front yards and as such ought to be made attractive to all those entering or leaving the city from the beach area. The condition of the parkway at present is so unattractive through neglect and lack of proper planting, that it has become an eyesore.

Appearance of this thoroughfare, as well as others throughout the city, is important to the general over all appearance of the city. Torrance Blvd. will become even more important as a principal thoroughfare when the new civic center is established.



## LAW IN ACTION

### KILLS ARE FLEXIBLE

In times like these almost anything can—and does—happen. So in setting up plans for your family, you want to keep the future unfrozen. That's why lawyers often advise disposing of your property by will instead of by other means.

Besides its many other good points, your will may be changed any time you like. For many things can happen in your family in the next ten years or so—marriages, new children, deaths, and the like. Indeed you can make or lose a fortune.

So you write a will. In time things change and you write a new will. Or you write a codicil—an added post script, so to speak, which changes your will in some respect.

You already know that the will itself should be "executed" with great formality—with witnesses, etc. The reason is easy to see: When you will goes into effect, it alone can speak your mind. You won't be there.

You must also execute a codicil with the same care and formality as you do a will for the same reason.

Mr. Smith was proud of his

will, made in his lawyer's office, duly signed and attested by two competent witnesses. Later Mr. Smith wanted to leave a thousand dollars to a man who had befriended him. Rather than disturb his will, he typed out and attached his desires on a paper, with no witnesses.

The added provision would not hold up in court. His friend got nothing. To be sure it will be effective you should execute a codicil with great formality. For example, you should normally sign it before at least two competent witnesses. They must attest it in your presence and at your request.

You can make a "holographic" will or codicil (entirely written, dated, and signed in your own handwriting), but such documents are easy to lose and sometimes their genuineness is difficult to prove. There is nothing informal about a will or codicil. Make sure any paper concerning your property after your death is drawn with care.

NOTE: The State Bar of California offers this column for your information so that you may know more about how to act under our laws.

## Political Alcoholic



## OF ALL THINGS

By Robert B. Martin

**HORROR WEAPONS** and what they can do to humanity are a favorite subject of armchair generals these days. They run out of attention-getting subjects and, to attract the limelight, throw a scare into us.

We had enough horror weapons before the H and A bombs to take care of civilization during the Second World War. We didn't use them. Why? Because we had a mutual agreement with the enemy not to use them. That's why. Perfectly effective blaster gases were developed during and even before World War II. They could incapacitate the people of any large city.

Colorless, odorless and tasteless gases were actually bottled and set to go... gases that would kill beings en masse before an alarm could be given.

**THERE ARE GASES** that smell like garlic, cut corn and even flowers. They're capable of wiping out a community. Don't forget chlorine, incidentally. V. A. Hospitals still have cases from the First World War.

And then there are gases that are heavy, cut corn and even flowers. They're capable of wiping out a community. Don't forget chlorine, incidentally. V. A. Hospitals still have cases from the First World War.

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what the Nazis could have turned loose on us if they'd wanted to.

But they didn't... they didn't because they knew we had the same. And if we'd all started using gases, well, I think the course of civilization would have been altered and stunted for a thousand years.

I know of these gases because I was trained to use them... and, at the same time, found how to protect myself and fellow soldiers against them.

**AT A GIVEN SIGNAL**, our Chemical Warfare department can unleash gases developed during the First World War that would take down Moscow or any other Russian city in just a few minutes.

Why use an H-bomb? Use Lewisite. Far cheaper. It smells like geraniums... the people take a few deep breaths to identify the strangely beautiful odor... and then the sneezing begins. They sneeze because their nasal passages blister... suddenly their lungs start to bubble and fry... then it's over.

Oh, we've got gases that smell like musty hay, green corn, apples... that's phosgene, one of the most inexorable killers of any era; and then there's chloropicrin... it smells like flypaper and for a moment you keep sniffing the air because you're wondering about that flypaper odor... but when the vomiting starts, it's too late. You're

done. You either cough your guts out or become a stretch case. The Russians first used chloropicrin in 1916, by the way.

Horror weapons? We've had plenty of them all along! **DON'T EXPECT** just one type of gas to hit you. Expect combinations mixed with regulation bombs and shells... so while you're ducking TNT, it doesn't occur to you that gases are coming over too.

Masks are helpful, but not enough. Spray equipment on planes give you the blister gas. The stuff comes down in a deadly fog and, in a terrible agony, you rip your mask off to hasten death.

But I did say that I found how to protect myself and fellow soldiers. This holds true for civilians too. Get wise... gas warfare CAN happen... but you and your kid sister and even grandpa can beat the worst there is if only you learn to protect yourself.

**START BY** getting acquainted with your Civil Defense setup. There's a CD Warden in your district... let him know you're around... Many a GI and ex-GI can back up what I've just told you in this column. I did a little more work with gases than some GIs because I got my arm twisted into... I... volunteered for chemical warfare indoctrination. So it adds up to the fact that I know it's actually quite easy to exist in a deadly atmosphere of war gases... to fight... and to effectively repel an enemy.

Takes specialized knowledge yes, but you can learn that. Takes a gas mask... plastic spray attack cover and that's about it. I understand that surplus stores are selling these covers for about 99 cents each. Don't know about the mask. So that's just a portion of the story on horror weapons. Everybody's had 'em all along.

## AFTER HOURS

By JOHN MORLEY

There is something mysterious and incomprehensible to those of us correspondents who covered the Korean War before and after the armistice, that President Eisenhower and the Republican administration have made no effort to utilize the experience and ability of the most brilliant strategist on the Far-East situation... General Douglas MacArthur. General MacArthur has served in the entire Pacific perimeter longer and with more distinction than any other living commander. He outranks by seniority all other generals of the United States Army. He is one of the few commanders who speak most of the languages of the

Far East. He is respected by more Chinese, Japanese, Koreans, Filipinos, Taiwanese than any American in history. His spiritual emphasis has brought hope to millions at home and abroad. He is as familiar with the off-shore islands of the mainland of Red China and Formosa as he is with the sidewalks of his residence in New York. He is probably revered and respected for his military and administrative genius by more U. S. citizens than any other living American. Yet the talents of this distinguished man are not sought by his government at a moment when the question of peace or war in the Far East hangs in the balance... and hundreds of United States soldiers are rotting in Chinese Communist prisons.

mosa Straits since 1950, with the forces of Chiang Kai-shek and with the U. S. 7th Fleet... that Red Chinese strategy has been consistent toward three major objectives. 1. To get a foothold in Korea with a joint attack on Japan with Russia. 2. To expand into Indo-China and Malaya for raw material and millions of wealthy Chinese for economic reasons, and to get Formosa. 3. To divide the United States from Britain and the Western allies, using trade and profits as a weapon.

Red China accomplished its objective in Korea and Indo-China and is now concentrating on Formosa. This does not mean a military attack on Formosa, but an attempt to occupy as many of the islands off the mainland as possible, both for the psychological effect on millions of Chinese in an out of Red China, and the opening of the trade routes for the freighters who have been unable to pass through the Nationalist blockade.

In all of my trips to the Far East, I have not talked with any responsible official of any country who believes that Red China can invade Formosa, or gamble with a war against the United States. Her strategy appears to be to win Formosa without war, simply by demoralizing the free Chinese to submission by a series of territorial conquests and limited show of military power. With victories in Korea and Indo-China... the various invitations by the United Nations for negotiations... these are the tools of propaganda that influence the native masses. Even the sentencing of the United States fliers played a part in this propaganda drive. The fact that Red China announced the sentencing of the U. S. fliers was proof that negotiation and propaganda was a pattern of its objective. The trip of the secretary-general of the UN to Peking to plead for the U. S. fliers was a master stroke of Red propaganda. The recent invitation of the UN Security Council to Red China to negotiate for a cease fire, and Chou En-lai's refusal, is interpreted by millions in the Far East in terms of power and prestige for the Red Chinese.

**Strategic Importance of Formosa** Formosa is weakened by the loss of any of the Nationalist island outposts. The recent loss of Yikiangshan Island is the first since the transfer of the Nationalist Government to Formosa from the mainland of China in 1949. The Tachens are under Red bombardment and their loss is expected any day. The link has been broken by the Reds after five years of fighting because of the failure of the United States to support these outposts of the Nationalist government. It's a repetition of the days prior to the fall of Nationalist China in 1949 on the mainland. It's a repetition of events prior to the fall of Korea... and the fall of Indo-China.

All the principal islands off the mainland of Red China have been in possession of the Nationalist government to Formosa. I have visited this area a dozen times since 1950. From the Pescadores north they are as follows: Little Quemoy and Big Quemoy, Matsu, Kaoteng, Nan Chi San, Nan Kin Shan, Pishan, Tachens, Yikiangshan, Yu Shan, I Shiang Shan, and a few smaller islands to the gateway of Shanghai. Quemoy is only 600 miles from the Philippines. Yikiangshan, which fell to the Chinese Reds recently, and the Tachens are only 400 miles from Okinawa and some 500 miles from Japan and Korea. The fall of these islands to Red China not only endangers Formosa, but the whole Far East perimeter from Japan to the Philippines. The fall of these islands to Communism will have a catastrophic effect on millions of Chinese and other native peoples in the Far East and raise Red China's prestige to unprecedented heights. The effect of such an eventuality could prove disastrous to any defense of freedom and result in Communist expansion south of Indo-China to Singapore, without the need of Communist military intervention, as was the case in northern Vietnam and Korea.

**Red China's Strategy Exposed** Red China's announced purpose of liberating Chinese territory and heading toward Formosa is phony. If liberation of Chinese territory is their purpose, why don't they liberate Hong Kong from the British, which is real Chinese territory? Could it be that invading Hong Kong would drive a wedge between Britain and China, which is not in the present Red time table... while a crisis toward Formosa is dividing the United States and Britain, which is the present policy of Communism in the Far East?

It has been apparent to this reporter in covering the For-

## The SQUIRREL CAGE

By REID BUNDY

Here's one passed along to members of the Torrance Optimist Club last week by Charlie Kelly, of the Internal Revenue Service, during a talk before the club. It was a new one to us.

A motorist got a flat tire on his auto while passing the county crazy house and stopped to fix it under the watchful eye of one of the inmates who was loafing around on the grounds adjacent to the road.

The motorist jacked up the car, got out the spare, and took off the wheel with the flat tire, putting all the lug nuts in the hubcap.

Everything went well until he started to put the spare on. He flicked the hubcap containing the lug nuts, sending them skittering down through the sewer grating beside the auto.

After a few well-chosen epithets, the motorist asked the fellow across the fence where the closest service station was. "Well, the inmate said, 'If I were you, I would take one nut from each of the other wheels. That will hold your spare on until you can drive to a service station.'"

"Say," the motorist said, "you must not be too crazy if you're coming up with reasonable ideas like that."

"Oh, I'm crazy all right," the inmate said. "But I'm not stupid."

While on the subject of Optimists, we might send along a story told us the other evening by Phil McHugh, governor of the 14th District of Optimist International, at a dinner meeting here. This one is true—only the names have been changed to protect some friends.

A new service club was being chartered east of here recently, but the roster contained no representatives from a church group. So serious a thing as a club chartering should be opened with an invocation, the steering committee decided, so Father Patrick O'Toole of the nearby Catholic church was invited to attend the meeting and offer the invocation. He told them he would be happy to attend.

When the big night came, everybody milled around finding their placecards at the tables. Father O'Toole found his seat at the head table along with high echelon representatives of the service club. Beside the place card reading "Rev. Patrick O'Toole" was another... "Mrs. Patrick O'Toole."

Members of the committee who set out THAT banquet table will be a long time living down their faux pas.

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# PERSONAL LOANS

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## Southland's Sunset Pall Follows Evening Burning

Southern California's new evening "sunset pall" is one the Chamber of Commerce is not rightfully boasting of these days.

And with good reason. For recent disclosures have confirmed the fact that operation of backyard incinerators throughout the Los Angeles County basin is one of the largest, uncontrolled sources of visibility-reducing pollution today.

Air Pollution Control District engineers equipped with atmospheric sampling devices have established that the recent changeover from morning to evening burning hours definitely established greater concentrations of visibility-reducing particles in the atmosphere during evening hours.

In a recently released report on incineration burning, Chief Administrative Officer Arthur J. Will, temporary Air Pollution Control Officer, quoted findings of the district engineers in which they reported a 250 per cent increase in smoke pollution in Pasadena from evening burning.

This figure was two and one-half times greater than a similar smoke pollution increase noted for metropolitan Los Angeles where a 35 per cent increase in smoke pollution was recorded. This was balanced by a similar decrease during the morning hours.

Both communities established evening burning hours last November as a smoke abatement experiment.

both cities have reverted to morning burning hours and other elements of the community are waiting ready to cooperate with district officials and county government.

Many official and unofficial organizations who have studied the problem now are ready to the necessity of establishing immediate controls over this important source of pollution.

And Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, acting as the Air Pollution Control Board, has taken active steps toward eventual control or elimination of all "backyard" burning.

Since the burning problem becomes, in effect, a problem of an adequate rubbish disposal program providing for proportions, methods for achieving a county-wide system of rubbish disposal are now under consideration.

In this connection, conferences have been ordered with a League of California Cities and a 20-man Trash Disposal Committee has been created by the Board of Supervisors to study rubbish disposal systems and make appropriate recommendations to the various agencies.

Plans already in effect include discontinuance of fire permits for open burning in unincorporated areas after June 30, and a weed abatement program providing for more disking and plowing. Burning off lots prior to this time will be temporarily halted during periods of severe inversion periods.